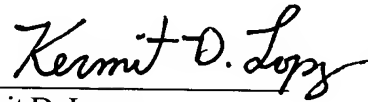


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket No. 1000-1122
Serial No. 10/091,270

merely clarifying in nature and recite inherent advantages of the present invention, and are also presented to correct any general errors or deficiencies present in the original patent application. These amendments are not believed to constitute new matter, and approval of the amendments described herein is respectfully requested. Additionally, it is believed that a fee is not due for presentation of this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph beginning at line 24 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 5 depicts a ~~left~~ right side view of an alternative utility basket, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Paragraph beginning at line 27 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 6 illustrates a ~~left~~ right side view of a utility basket with a single wheel to assist in the transportation of such a utility basket, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 8 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 10 illustrates a right side view of a utility basket and a retractable door, which can be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Sentence beginning at line 10 and ending at line 12 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

Utility basket 102 includes a back wall 108 ~~106~~, which is disposed between a right wall 117 and a left wall 115.

Sentence beginning at line 12 and ending at line 13 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

A bottom floor 120 (~~not shown~~) is located below and connected to right wall 117, left wall 115, and back wall 108.

Sentence beginning at line 26 and ending at line 27 of page 11 has been amended as follows:

Utility basket 402 ~~may~~ can also include a door 404, such as a front door similar to front door 104 of FIGS. 1 to 3.

Sentence beginning at line 3 and end ending at line 4 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 5 depicts a ~~left~~ right side view 500 of an alternative utility basket 502, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Sentence beginning at line 7 and ending at line 8 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

Wheel 513 thus comprises a ~~left~~ right front wheel of utility basket 502.

Sentence beginning at line 19 and ending at line 21 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 6 illustrates a ~~left~~ right side view 600 of a utility basket having a single wheel 604 to assist in the transportation of utility basket 602, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Sentence beginning at line 23 and ending at line 26 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

Utility basket 602 differs from the aforementioned utility baskets 102, 402 and 502 by the use of a single back wheel 605 ~~602~~, which is located at the bottom of back wall 602 and centrally between left wall 615 and right wall 617.

Sentence beginning at line 26 and end ending at line 28 of page 12 has been amended as follows:

The use of back wheel ~~604~~ 605 in association with a front door 604 ~~such as that illustrated in FIGS. 1 to 3~~ can offer an additional mobility advantage when transporting utility basket 602.

Sentence beginning at line 13 and ending at line 15 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 8 illustrates a front view 800 of the front-loading utility basket 702 of FIG. 1, wherein the front door ~~704~~ 714 is shown partially open, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Sentence beginning at line 18 and ending at line 21 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

Although front door 714 is illustrated as a front door, which generally opens and closes vertically, it can be appreciated by those skilled in the art that front door 714 may be modified such that it opens and closes horizontally into left wall 715 ~~708~~ and/or right wall 717 ~~walls~~.

Sentence beginning at line 9 and ending at line 11 of page 13 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 10 illustrates a ~~left~~ right side view 1000 of a utility basket ~~1002~~ 1019 and a retractable front door 1014, which can be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Sentence beginning at line 13 and ending at line 15 of page 14 has been amended as follows:

Instead, front door 1014 slides into and out of a cavity 1020 within utility basket 1019 ~~1002~~ in order to open and close, as indicated by arrow 1022.

Sentences beginning at line 15 and ending at line 18 of page 14 have been amended as follows:

Cavity ~~1010~~ 1020 can thus be formed from at least one wall of the utility basket, ~~such that the~~ The front door 1014 generally slides into the cavity 1020 when the front door 1014 is moving toward an open position and out of the cavity 1020 when the front door 1014 is moving toward a closed position. Handle 1010 connected to back wall 1002 provides additional support for moving utility basket 1019, along with one or more wheels 1005.

Sentences beginning at line 13 and ending at line 21 of page 15 have been amended as follows:

An example of an extendable handle that may be implemented in accordance with the present invention is the pop-up mechanism described in U.S. Patent No. 5,987,701, "Pop-Up Mechanism For an Extendable Handle On A Wheeled Luggage Case" which issued to Kuo on November 23, 1999. ~~U.S. Patent No. 5,987,701 is incorporated herein by reference.~~ Those skilled in the art can appreciate, however, that other extendable handle configurations may be implemented in accordance with the present invention and that the specific handle configuration illustrated and disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,987,701 is not considered a limiting feature of the present invention, but is discussed herein for general background and illustrative purposes only.

Sentence beginning at line 23 and ending at line 25 of page 15 has been amended as follows:

FIG. 13 depicts a utility basket 1300, such as shown in FIGS. ~~FIGs.~~ 7 and 8, wherein a locking mechanism 1315 is incorporated into ~~the a door 1305 and along the front panel 1305.~~ a door 1305.

Sentence beginning at line 25 and ending at line 27 of page 15 has been amended as follows:

The locking mechanism 1315 can include spring-loaded latches and associated hardware integrated near the top of the door 1305 having a handle 1303 as shown in ~~the Figure~~ FIG. 13.

Sentence beginning at line 14 and ending at line 15 of page 16 has been amended as follows:

The use of ~~Use~~ a hardware as suggested herein is well known in the mechanical arts and should be appreciated given the present teachings.